dpi notes

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

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PERSIAN GULF

USG Sévigny reported to the Committee on Information that the crisis in the Persian Gulf and ensuing involvement of the Security Council had resulted in a great deal of media attention being focused on the United Nations. In the past year, she said, 4,139 journalists had received United Nations press accreditation. Demand for formal interviews with the Secretary-General had increased sharply. While events since 2 August 1990 had stretched DPI's resources to the maximum, DPI had been able to meet the enormous demands put on it by the media and general public.

Mahmoud El Said, Director of UNIC-Manila, served as spokesman and Arabic translator for former Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Abby Farah on Mr. Farah's special investigatory mission to Kuwait. DPI photographer John Isaac was dispatched from Headquarters to provide photo coverage of the Farah mission. He also accompanied Eric Suy, the Secretary-General's Personal Representative, and Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the Secretary-General's Executive Delegate for UN humanitarian programmes in the area. DPI photographer Pernacca Sudhakaran was assigned in May to accompany to Iraq the commission set up to supervise the destruction of Iraqi nuclear, biological and chemical capabilities.

In a single month, April, DPI produced 117 radio programmes, including news shows, news items and magazines, in 12 languages, on the Gulf crisis. The Department's total broadcasting time for the month was 35 hours and 44 minutes. Of these, 1.48 hours were devoted to the Gulf crisis, 1.54 hours covered refugees in the area and another 1.05 hours dealt with UN peacekeeping in the area.

As part of its service to the media at Headquarters, DPI released *Information Notes* on the functions of the Special Commission on non-conventional weapons, and on UNIKOM. It also released an updated information note in Arabic, English, French and Spanish titled *UN Security Council Resolutions Relating to the Situation between Iraq and Kuwait.*

For visitors to Headquarters, DPI prepared a quick one-page reference paper explaining the functions and history of the Security Council.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In May, a seminar aimed at promoting an independent and pluralistic press in Africa, which was sponsored by UNESCO and DPI, and organized with UNDP help, drew journalists from 38 African countries to Windhoek. By acclamation, journalists at the seminar adopted a declaration proclaiming that "consistent with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the establishment, maintenance and fostering of an independent, pluralistic and free press is essential to the development and maintenance of democracy in a nation, and for economic development." The journalists in their declaration noted that at the present time at least 17 journalists, editors or publishers are in African prisons, while 48 were killed in the exercise of their profession between 1969 and 1990. Under the circumstances, the journalists urged the General Assembly to inscribe on the agenda of its next session discussion of "censorship as a grave viola-

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tion of human rights falling with the purview of the Commission on Human Rights."

The journalists also called on international organizations, developmental agencies and professional associations to direct funding towards the development of an African press which would reflect "different points of view."

The Paris-based magazine *Jeune Afrique* later praised the UN for sponsoring the seminar which produced the Windhoek Declaration. The London-based *West Africa* magazine also commended what it called a UN initiative in favour of press independence.

ENVIRONMENT

UNEP and DPI marked World Environment Day, 5 June, with two events at Headquarters. At 2 pm in the Dag Hammarskjold auditorium they screened *Spirit and Nature*, produced by Bill Moyers for airing by PBS. At 7 pm they arranged an event for the General Assembly chamber to celebrate the occasion.

During the evening event, which was held before an audience of diplomats as well as civic, corporate and NGO leaders, Claes Nobel, the founder and chairman of the United Earth Organization, presented the Society's Earth Prizes for environmental leadership and humanitarian excellence to Ted Turner of Turner Broadcasting and James Grant of UNICEF.

UNIC New Delhi reports that on World Environment Day, the DPI video *Our Planet Earth* was shown on Indian television at prime time to an audience estimated in the millions.

UNIC Dakar has scheduled a journalists' seminar for 29 July-3 August aimed at sensitizing populations of the Sahelian regions on the objectives of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development.

Earlier this year, UNIC Brazzaville marked World Meteorological Day by issuing an information note to the media, government agencies and embassies. The note, whose theme was *The atmosphere of the Earth, the Living Planet*, was based on materials received from the World Meteorological Organization.

PEACEKEEPING

UNIC Moscow reports that the United Nations Association-USSR recently set up a programme for "UN Activity in the Field of Peacekeeping." The programme was inaugurated at a UNA-USSR meeting which brought together UNA representatives and officials of the Soviet Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Soviet military officers who had served with the UN peacekeeping operations in the past and other Soviet experts on peacekeeping.

ANTI-APARTHEID

The English language version of DPI's travelling anti-apartheid exhibit was displayed in Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg under the sponsorship of UNIC Brussels and local NGOs. It will be shown in London in September and October. The Spanish language version of the exhibit was shown at UNIC Buenos Aires in May and June. In July it will go to Mexico City, in August to Havana, in September and October to Santiago and in November to Bogota. The French version was shown in May in Rome. In July it will go to Geneva, in October to Aix-en-Provence, and in January 1992 to Bologna.

At the request of the Centre against Apartheid, UNIC Athens is currently looking into possible publication in Greek of two of the Centre's publications: the 1991 edition of *United Nations in the Forefront of the Struggle Against Apartheid* and the February 1991 issue of the Centre's *Notes and Documents*.

On the same theme, UNIC Lima hosted a media event at which the Peruvian rock singer Miki Gonzales launched his latest production: a video-clip dedicated to Nelson Mandela.

WOMEN

At a media luncheon organized by DPI on 21 June, five UN organizations launched The World's Women 1970-90, the UN's major publication presenting statisical data on the condition of women over a period of two decades in more than 170 countries of the world.

In his preface to the new book co-sponsored by the UN Statistical Office, the Division for the Advancement of Women, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNIFEM, Secretary-General Pérez de Cuèllar predicted study of its data would serve to generate worldwide awareness of the situation of women, the majority of whom, he said, still lag far behind men in power, wealth and opportunity.

At the luncheon introducing the book, USG Sévigny offered introductory remarks; Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, was keynote speaker. James P. Grant and Dr. Richard Jolly (UNICEF), Joann Vanek and Robert Johnston (UNSO), Sharon Capeling (UNIFEM) and John Mathiason (DAW) took questions from the press.

AWARDS

On 4 June, in Toronto, at a meeting of the International Public Relations Association (IPRA), USG Sévigny presented a UN-DPI award for excellence to Media Consultants, Ltd., of Uganda for a public service campaign titled *Give a Face to AIDS*. The Campaign was created to raise public awarness of the AIDS issue by using the technique of focusing attention on the illness and final days of Ugandan recording artists Philly Bongoley Lutaaya who died from AIDS. DPI also presented certificates of merit to nine other public relations firms for their public service campaigns.

PALESTINE

In Helsinki in early June, DPI, in co-operation with the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, sponsored a three-day symposium for 60 European journalists to discuss possible dynamics of a Palestinian/Israeli peace process. USG Vassily Safronchuk served as moderator of a panel of nine experts who led the discussions.

In May, DPI organized panels for journalists in Brussels and in Bonn to discuss protection of Palestinian civilians under Israeli occupation.

JUNIC MEETING

Among the major items that members of JUNIC discussed when they met at Headquarters in June were: a status report on a system-wide information programme for the UN Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED); a report on the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS); a report by the JUNIC group to review the publication of *Development Forum*, and a status report on the TV co-production *Agenda for a Small Planet*.

JUNIC, a subsidiary body of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), is a forum for consultation and coordination among public information professionals from members of the United Nations system.

LOOKING AHEAD

WOMEN'S ISSUES

For early fall, DPI has planned a number of publications and events related the the situation of women.

In advance of 3 September, the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, DPI will send UNICs and UNDP offices an information kit designed to be used in planning activities and publicizing related to the convention.

On 2 October, the Department will host a Sex Stereotyping Panel at Headquarters for participants in its seminar for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries.

Also in October, the Department will release a 63 page booklet, Women: Challenges to the Year 2000, reviewing obstacles to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women in the areas of political participation and decision-making, education, employment, health and involvement in the peace process.

READEX FICHE

WHAT'S NEW AND AVAILABLE

Unless otherwise noted, all DPI information products are available at the UN Headquarters Secretariat Documents Distribution Desk, Room S-B-144. Telephone: (212) 963-7368.

REFERENCE PAPERS AND NOTES

United Nations Security Council. An introduction to how the Council works and what it has done. English only. (No DPI number.)

United Nations Security Council Resolutions relating to the Situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Short summaries and full texts of 15 Security Council resolutions on the situation in the Persian Gulf area, beginning with resolution 660 adopted on 2 August 1990. Currently in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. DPI/1104/Rev.2.

United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Information on the functions and composition of the Mission set up by Security Council resolution 689. English only. (No DPI number.)

Special Commission to Supervise Destruction of Iraq's Chemical, Biological and Nuclear Weapons. A look at the commission set up in conformity with Security Council resolution 687 (1991). Arabic, English, French and Spanish. (No DPI number.)

UNITED NATIONS FOCUS SERIES

Ending Discrimination: A Fundamental Right. Analysis of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1979. English, French and Spanish. (DPI/1008.)

Assessing the Impact on Developing Countries of Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe. The Committee for Development Planning examines the epochal changes taking place in Eastern Europe and their implications for developing countries. English only. (DPI/1139.)

Detecting Drug Crops from Space. To detect illicit drug cultivation, the UN promotes use of a range of new technologies, including use of satellites. English only. DPI/1132.

Destroying Drug Crops without Harming the Environment. In the last 10 years, the UN reports, worldwide efforts to develop safe chemical and biological agents for plant eradication have advanced greatly. This feature article tells some of them. English only. DPI/1133.

The International Trade Centre. The UN's International Trade Centre, a trade promotion body jointly sponsored by GATT and UNCTAD, advises governments on trade promotion strategies, helps businesses find opening for their products, works with import organizations to improve their foreign purchasing operations, and trains trade promotion officials. English only. DPI/1115.

BOOKLETS AND BROCHURES

Earth Summit. A brochure on the upcoming (1992) UN Conference on Environment and Development. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian.DPI/1118.

The United Nations and Public Information. A guide for the public to UN-generated information. 40 pages plus 16 pocket inserts on UN specialized agencies and addresses of UNIC AND UNDP offices. English and French. DPI/1098.

Third International Development Strategy. A summary. English, French and Spanish. DPI/1107.

POSTERS

For a United, Non-Racial and Democratic South Africa. Afrikaans, Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

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